

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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### NEWS RELEASE



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*The Utah State Courts are committed to open, fair, and independent justice.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### UTAH STATE COURTS TO CELEBRATE JURORS

**Salt Lake City, UT---**After more than 200 years, the Bill of Rights' justice by the people, for the people still works. The Utah State Courts will be recognizing the role jurors play in a democratic society during Jury Appreciation Week, May 2 through 6, 2005. The week's activities tie into Law Day on May 1, the theme of which is "The American Jury: We the People in Action." More than 5 million Americans are called to jury duty each year and 95 percent of the world's jury trials are held in America.

On May 3 at 2 p.m., Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr., will sign a declaration proclaiming May 2 through 6 as Jury Appreciation Week on May 3 at 2 p.m. As part of the week's activities, the Utah State Courts will be handing out certificates of appreciation to jurors who serve during the week. In addition, judges throughout the state will be out in the community speaking to students on the role jurors' play in a democratic society. Plus, judges will be hosting mock trials where students act out the roles of defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, defendant, witnesses, and jurors in the case of the Big Bad Wolf v. the Three Little Pigs. And finally, a presentation titled "The Changing Face of Utah Jurors," will be on display in the rotunda of the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse, 450 South State Street, from May 2 through 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The public is encouraged to go to the state courts' Web site at [www.utcourts.gov](http://www.utcourts.gov) to learn more about jury service and to take an online Law Day quiz to test their knowledge of jury service.

The right to a trial by jury is a fundamental principle of the American legal system, which is secured by many state constitutions and the Sixth and Seventh Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Jurors keep law in the United States from getting too far from the people and preserve a guarantee of freedom and democracy that many in the world are still struggling to achieve.

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